

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 11, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are appreciative of your Administration's dedication to achieving a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Unfortunately, the recent formation of a Palestinian Authority unity government supported by Hamas, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization that has never publicly accepted the Quartet principles, represents a serious setback to efforts to achieve peace. We are gravely concerned that the formation of this government and President Abbas' renewed effort to upgrade the status of the Palestinians within international organizations will jeopardize direct negotiations with Israel to achieve a two-state solution.

By its actions and inaction, Hamas has demonstrated it is not a partner for peace. Hamas has openly called for Israel's destruction and last month Hamas leaders again repeated their refusal to meet recognized international demands: recognition of Israel, renunciation of terror, and acceptance of previous Israel-PLO agreements.

Recent events have consequences as to U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority as provided for in the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 and restrictions contained in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2014, including prohibiting foreign assistance to Hamas or any power-sharing government of which Hamas is a member or over which Hamas has undue influence. These troubling developments, including the role played by Hamas in the formation of the government, have undermined Congressional support for U.S. assistance to the Palestinians. Any assistance should only be provided when we have confidence that this new government is in full compliance with the restrictions contained in current law. We urge you to continue to impress on President Abbas the need for him to cease any alliance with terrorist organizations such as Hamas and to return to the negotiating table with Israel.

Sincerely,



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator



SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator




JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator



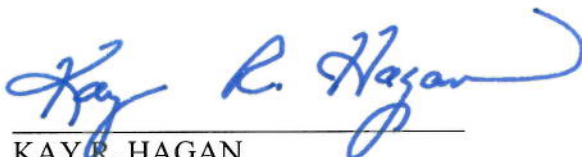
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United States Senator



JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator



KAY R. HAGAN
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MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator




MARK BEGICH
United States Senator




JOHN BARRASSO
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RON WYDEN
United States Senator



ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator



SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator



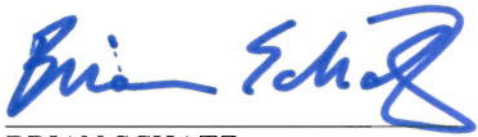
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United States Senator



DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator



LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



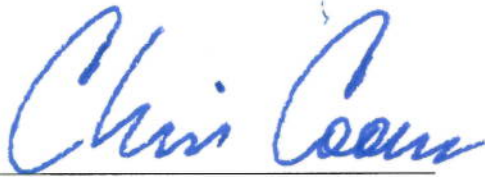
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BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator



MICHAEL B. ENZI
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator



JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator



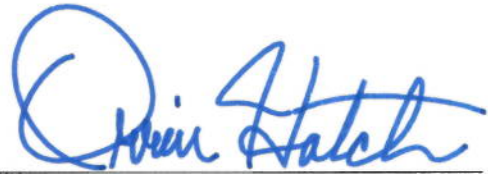
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CHUCK GRASSLEY
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KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
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ORRIN G. HATCH
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CHARLES E. SCHUMER
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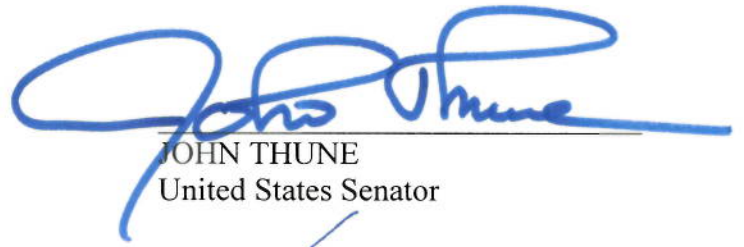
MARK UDALL
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



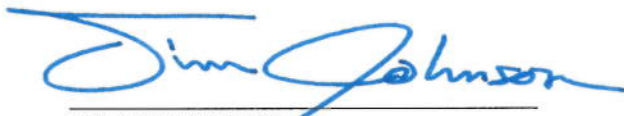
JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
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THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator



TIM JOHNSON
United States Senator



ROB PORTMAN
United States Senator



JOE DONNELLY
United States Senator



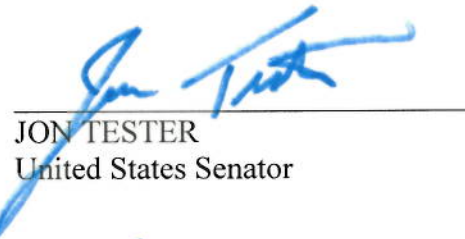
DEAN HELLER
United States Senator



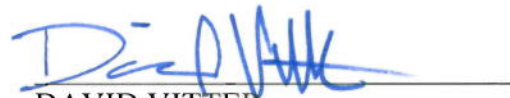
MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator



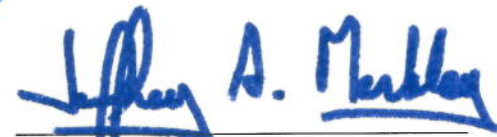
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United States Senator



JON TESTER
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DAVID VITTER
United States Senator



JEFF MERKLEY
United States Senator



TIM SCOTT
United States Senator



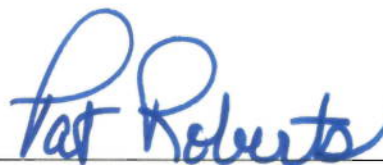
MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



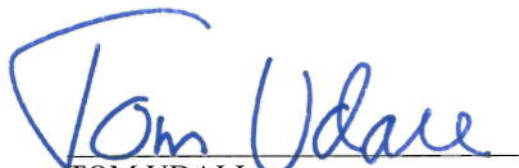
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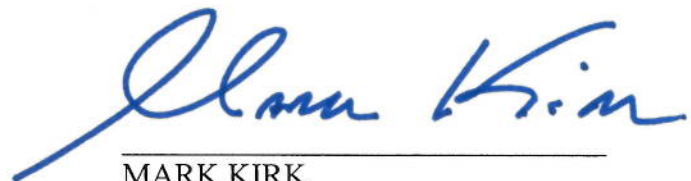
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AMY KLOBUCHAR
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LAMAR ALEXANDER
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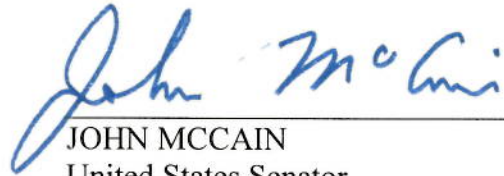
JACK REED
United States Senator



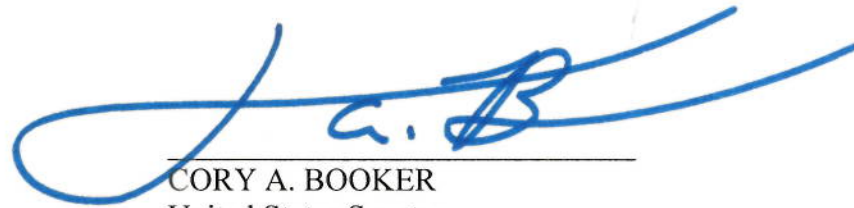
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CORY A. BOOKER
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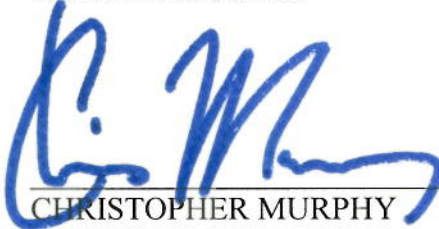
PATRICK J. TOOMEY
United States Senator



HEIDI HEITKAMP
United States Senator



DANIEL COATS
United States Senator



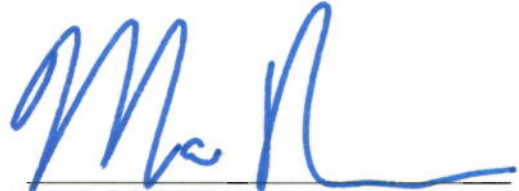
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
United States Senator



RICHARD C. SHELBY
United States Senator



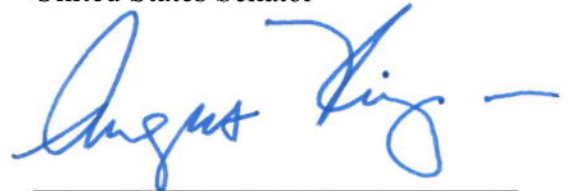
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MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator



ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



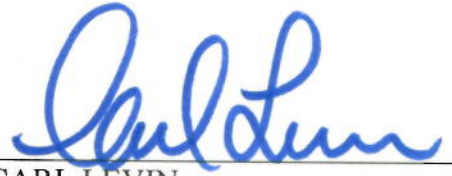
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United States Senator



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